
U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN OCTOBER 1996

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in October 1996 increased about 18% compared to the prior month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Annualized production was slightly higher in October than the production in 1995, 43.4 million metric tons.

Domestic phosphate rock sold or used, excluding exports for October, decreased about 7% to 3.6 million tons between September and October, with all annualized sales or use running about 3% behind the total for 1995 (table 3).

U.S. producer ending stocks for October increased compared with September. In the Florida-North Carolina region, stocks were about 1% higher, while in the Idaho-Utah region, stocks were slightly lower compared with the previous month.

U.S. phosphate rock export volume reported to the USGS by domestic producers in October were up about 111% compared with September 1996 exports. Total U.S. import tonnage was estimated by USGS to average 50,000 tons per month, or 0.6

million tons per year. October import data were not available at the time of publication.

Apparent domestic consumption for the month of September, calculated from the sum of home deliveries and adjusted import data, translated to an annual rate of 47.9 million tons per year, compared with 42.6 million tons in 1995.

On October 7, IMC-Agrico Company announced that it had purchased about 24,000 acres of phosphate-bearing land in central Florida. The land, located near Mulberry, known as Pine Level, was owned by the Consolidated Minerals Inc., with headquarters in Leesburg, Florida. Reportedly, the parcel contains over 100 million tons of high-quality recoverable phosphate rock. IMC-Agrico operates a phosphate mine in Mulberry, and has increased its reserves by about 25% by buying the adjacent property. The company plans to mine the phosphate rock within the next five to ten years, depending on the regulatory permitting process.

TABLE 1
UNITED STATES PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS, BY REGION 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Region and period	Marketable production	Sold and/or used			Ending stocks 2/
		Domestic	Exports	Total	
Florida and North Carolina:					
1995:					
Jan.- June 3/	19,300	18,000	1,470	19,500	4,080 4/
October	2,890	2,880	284	3,160	3,760
November	2,930	2,710	202	2,910	3,800
December	2,910	2,940	264	3,200	3,670 2/
July-Dec. 3/	18,700	17,300	1,290	18,600	3,670 4/
Jan.-Dec.	38,000	35,300	2,760	38,100	XX
1996:					
January	2,980	2,790	158	2,950	3,690
February	2,900	2,670	275	2,950	3,690
March	3,170	2,890	231	3,120	3,750
April	3,140 e/	2,900 e/	W	2,900 e/	3,850 e/
May	3,200	2,750	W	2,750	4,170
June	3,140	2,690	W	2,690	4,860
Jan.- June 3/	18,500	16,700	W	16,700	4,080 4/
July	3,070	3,160	W	3,160	4,660
August	3,310	3,250	W	3,250	4,670
September	2,990	3,170	W	3,170	4,430
October	3,310	3,100	W	3,100	4,490
Idaho and Utah:					
1995:					
Jan.- June 3/	2,670	2,650	--	2,650	2,100 4/
October	470	532	--	532	1,990
November	371	379	--	379	1,950
December	335	396	--	396	2,040 2/
July-Dec.	2,820	2,970	--	2,970	2,040 4/
Jan.-Dec.	5,490	5,620	--	5,620	XX
1996:					
January	250	382	--	382	1,920 e/
February	383 e/	315 e/	--	315 e/	2,010 e/
March	421	389	--	389	2,000 e/
April	564	495	--	495	2,070 e/
May	618	511	--	511	2,200
June	554 e/	552 e/	--	552 e/	2,190 e/
Jan.- June 3/	2,790	2,640	--	2,640	2,190 4/
July	614 e/	614 e/	--	614 e/	2,190 e/
August	591	576	--	576	2,190 e/
September	552	690 e/	--	690 e/	1,930 e/
October	860	501	--	501	1,920
United States:					
1995:					
Jan.- June 3/	22,000	20,700	1,470	22,100	6,180 4/
October	3,360	3,410	284	3,700	5,740
November	3,300	3,090	202	3,290	5,750
December	3,250	3,330	264	3,600	5,710 2/
July-Dec.	21,500	20,300	1,290	21,600	5,710 4/
Jan.-Dec.	43,500	40,900	2,760	43,700	XX
1996:					
January	3,230	3,170	158	3,330	5,610 e/
February	3,280 e/	2,990 e/	275	3,260 e/	5,700 e/
March	3,590	3,280	231	3,510	5,750 e/
April	3,700 e/	3,400 e/	W	3,400 e/	5,920 e/
May	3,820	3,260	W	3,260	6,370
June	3,690 e/	3,240 e/	W	3,240 e/	7,050 e/
Jan.- June 3/	21,300	19,300	W	19,300	7,050 4/
July	3,690 e/	3,780 e/	W	3,780 e/	6,840 e/
August	3,900	3,830	W	3,830	6,860
September	3,540	3,860 e/	W	3,860 e/	6,360 e/
October	4,170	3,600	W	3,600	6,410

e/ Estimated. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes inventory adjustments.

3/ Final data. This is reported in the Annual Review publication, "Marketable Phosphate Rock," September 1996. Previously reported monthly data are preserved to show month-to-month activities that closely follow the production, sales/use and inventory data acquired through monthly surveys.

4/ As of June 30 or December 31, respectively.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS 1/ 2/ 3/ AND EXPORTS 4/ OF PHOSPHATE ROCK 5/

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Imports		Exports	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1995:				
Jan.-June 1995	345	17,400	1,470 6/	37,700 6/
October	140 e/	7,040 e/	284	8,260
November	144 e/	7,240 e/	202	6,340
December	150 e/	7,540 e/	264	7,680
Jan.-Dec. 1995	1,080 e/	55,200 e/	2,760 6/	73,900 6/
1996:				
January	(7/)	32	158	4,050
February	64	3,730	275	8,820
March	49	2,790	231	7,210
April	(7/)	2	W	W
May	62	3,660	W	W
June	64	3,710	W	W
Jan.-June 1996	239	13,900	W	W
July	70	3,990	W	W
August	67	3,870	W	W
September	66	3,820	W	W
October	NA	NA	W	W

e/ Estimated. NA Not available. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

1/ Data supplied by the Bureau of the Census under the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States HTS Nos. 2510.10.0000 and 2510.20.0000.

2/ C.i.f. (cost, insurance, and freight) values at U.S. ports.

3/ Excludes data suppressed by the Bureau of the Census.

4/ Quantity and value f.o.b. mine reported by respondents in the monthly survey.

5/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

6/ As reported in the Annual Review 1995 publication, "Marketable Phosphate Rock," September 1996.

7/ Less than 1/2 unit.

TABLE 3
COMPARATIVE PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS

(Million metric tons per year and dollars per metric ton for period shown)

	1993	1994	1995	1996 (YTD annualized)
United States:				
Marketable production:				
Florida and North Carolina	29.9	34.0	37.5	37.5
Idaho, and Utah	5.2	7.1	5.9	6.5
Total 1/	35.5	41.1	43.4	43.9
Sold or used by producers: 2/				
Florida and North Carolina	34.7	37.4	38.0	36.0
Idaho, and Utah	5.9	6.7	5.6	6.0
Total 1/	40.1	44.1	43.6	42.1
Yearend stocks	9.2	6.0	5.7	XX
Exports	3.2	2.8	2.9	W
Average value per ton	\$28.51	\$25.60	\$25.66	\$29.84 3/
Imports for consumption	1.4 e/	1.8 e/	1.8 e/	0.6
Average value per ton	\$60.45	\$48.76	51.3 e/ 4/	\$57.93 3/
Apparent consumption	38.3 e/ 5/	43.1 e/ 5/	42.6 e/ 5/	W 5/

e/ Estimated. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

2/ Includes exports reported by producers.

3/ Calculated from nonannualized 1996 data, January through the most recent month of available reporting.

4/ Calculated from nonannualized 1995 data, January through December.

5/ Calculated as total domestic sales or used plus imports minus exports, where imports are estimated to average about 150,000 tons per month, (and though the average monthly estimate may appreciably exceed any one month's reported imports).